Financing Institution's Proposal Towards Corporate Honesty

1778. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether financing institutions like IDBI|ICICI|LIC who have sizeable shareholding in L and T have taken cognizance of the forged proxies submitted at the annual general meeting of L and T as published in Express News Service from Bombay dated the 17th September, 1991; and

(b) if so, what corrective steps are proposed to bring corporate honesty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The financial institutions have taken cognizance of the news item published in the matter.

(b) One of the shareholders of L & T has filed a complaint in a Court of Law in respect of proxies lodged with L & T The case is still sub-judice.

Audit Report on Account of BCCI and Related Banks

1779. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any information is available from the Auditors M/s. Billimoria and Company appointed by Government to go into accounts of the BCCI and Syndicate Bank and other banks related with BCCI;

(b) whether any foreign investigating agency has enquired about the Indian connection with BCCI and whether Government are aware of the same and what are the details; and

(c) whether reconciliation of accounts of Syndicate Bank and BCCI upto 30th July is over and the exact position of depositors' interest is known?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The report of M/s. S. B. Billimoria & Co. appointed by RBI to look into the affairs of Bombay branch of BCCI is awaited.

(b) Govt. is aware of the proceedings before a Sub Committee of the United States Senate looking into BCCI affairs. Some allegations regarding pay offs to some leaders of South Asia have figured in the hearing before this Sub Committee. However, as per information available the testimony in this regard could not provide details to substantiate the charges and the sub-committee is learnt to have decided not to seriously pursue the matter further.

(c) Syndicate Bank has reported that its Vostro accounts (Rupee accounts) of BCCI Group have been reconciled as on 30th July, 1991 with one disputed entry of Rs. 16,230. The Nostro accounts with BCCI (SA London) (US Dollar and Sterling accounts) have been reconciled as on 30-7-91 with a difference of US Dollar 10,167.15 and Sterling 6087.18 respectively.

The exact position of depositors interest of the Bombay branch will be known after the evaluation of assets of the Bombay branch is completed.

BCCI Funds to Former Prime Minister's Family

1780. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a representative of BCCI recently told the U.S. Congress that the BCCI had

given funds to a former Prime Minister's family of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Govt. is aware of allegations regarding pay offs by BCCI to some leaders of South Asia that figured in the hearing before a Sub Committee of the US Senate. However, as per information available, the testimony in this regard could not provide details to substantiate the charges and the Sub Committee is learnt to have decided not to seriously pursue the matter further.

Smuggling of Computer Components into India

1781. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the current volume of smuggling of computer components, peripherals and spares are anything between Rs. 150 crores and Rs. 600 crores per year in Bombay alone as per the news item entitled "Enter the hi-tech Smugglers" which appeared in the Times of India of the 3rd October, 1991;

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard; and

(c) what remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) The Government are aware of the Newsitem and available reports indicate that high value computer components, peripherals and spares have become sensitive to smuggling into the country. At Sahar Airport, Bombay, alone, computer parts worth Rs. 2.88 crores have been seized in 23 cases during the current calendar year upto November, 1991. However, since smuggling is a clandestine activity. it is not feasible to estimate the extent of the smuggling of such goods.

(c) All the preventive and anti-smuggling agencies have been suitably alerted and are vigilant against the smuggling of these goods. Baggage of suspected passengers is being examined and screened. Sophisticated equipment such as X-ray baggage machines are being increasingly utilised.

External Debt of the Country

1782. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of external debt of the country at present;

(b) what is the "Interest" burden on the country due to the same;

(c) whether it is a fact that much of India's external debt has been incurred for Oil purchases; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The external debt of the country outstanding as at the end of 1990-91 is estimated to be Rs. 99,485 crores.

(b) The amount of interest to be paid during 1991-92 is estimated to be Rs. 5.348 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Expenditure on Bank Administration

1783. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 61 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th November, 1991 and state: